DUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir, Government propose to permit import of computers which are not being manufactured in the country on the basis of the actual requirements.

(b) Decision has been taken to put certain large computer systems above a particular level which are not being manufactured in the country on Open General Licence.

(c) The minimum configuration of the computer system under OGL has been arrived at taking into consideration the capacity of the indigenous manufacturers including ECIL to produce such computers.

(d) The computer systems available in the country cannot meet all the large and specialised requirements. For such applications it is necessary to consider the import of large computer systems Such Computer systems have been put under Open General Licence so that the procedural delays for procurement of such computer systems for projects of national importance are minimised.

U.S. Technology for production of F-5 fighter-cum-trainer aircraft

412. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S.A. has offered to transfer technology to India to facilitate indigenous production of F-5 fighter-cum-trainer aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It would not be in the public interest to disclose further details in this regard.

Guidelines to encourage the Scientists

413. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CSIR guidelines which have been laid down to encourage the participation of CSIR Scientists in International Conference are not being followed in some of the CSIR establishment such as ITRC, Lucknow;

(b) whether it has come to the knowledge of the Government if any injustice done to any ITRC Scientists with regards to his participation in an International Conference; and

(c) what steps are being taken to avoid such injustice meted out to Scientists especially in view of the sensitivity of these scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Ocean development in India

414. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what expenditure has been incurred by the Government on ocean development so far;

(b) whether major aims behind such expenditure also include exploration of natural resources lying in the oceans, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment have so far been made to ascertain the monetary value of the resources explored/procured so far or estimated to be procured in the near-future; and

(d) how does the gains, if any, compare with expenditure incurred on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The expenditure incurred by the Department of Ocean Development, since it was created as a separate Department in March 1982 has been on an average Rs. 18 crores per year.

(b) Yes, Sir. The major programmes of the Department include survey and exploration of living and non living resources within the Exclusive Economic Zone, survey and exploration of deep seabed for polymetallic nodules, Antarctic Research, exploration of renewable sources of energy from waves etc.

(c) No such estimates can be made accurately at this stage.

(d) The expenditure incurred so far is an investment for the future socio-economic gains to the country. However, there have been tangible gains in the sense that in India the production of seafood and the export of marine products are showing progressive increase. Exploitation of offshore minerals such as ilmenite, monazite, etc., has also been gaining momentum. Recently, the United Nations has allocated an exclusive site to India for the exploration of minerals in the Central Indian Ocean. In Antarctica, India's continued work has won the country an international acclaim.

Vessels for expeditions to Antarctica

415. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the vessels being used for expeditions to Antarctica are hired from foreign countries;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred towards the hire charges of the vessels during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether efforts were made to build indigenous vessels for the expeditions; if so, the details of efforts made so far by the Government;

(d) what are the details of major constraints which compelled the Government to hire foreign vessels for the expeditions; and

(e) what is the plan of the Government to build vessels for the purpose indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The yearly expenditure is indicated below:

Year	Expedition No.	Expenditure including hire charges, mobilisation/demobilisation, food and lodging expenses, fuel, insurance, port charges etc.
1987-88	7th expedition	Rs. 3.26 crores approx.
1986-87	6th expedition	Rs. 2.90 crores approx.
1985-86	5th expedition	Rs. 3.22 crores approx.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It will not be economically viable to invest large sums of money in infrastructure for building such a specialised vessel in the country in the context of our limited requirement.

(e) Government have no plan to build such vessels indigenously.